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Mass. Guard salutes 180 returning MPs

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By MAX HEUER

The Massachusetts National Guard honored the 180 members of the 972nd Military Police Company from Melrose yesterday morning with a "Welcome Home" celebration at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Melrose.

"It's awesome to be home," said 1st Lt. Thomas Glynn of Marlboro. Glynn received two Army commendation medals at the ceremony after working with FBI and Special Forces guarding a prison camp of Taliban detainees in Afghanistan.

"We were lucky that we returned

as quickly as we (did)," he said.

The company arrived home in March after about eight months of law enforcement and force protection duties for the 118th Airborne Corps in Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

"Soldiers of the 972nd have been instrumental in protecting our nation's security at home and abroad since Sept. 11," said Maj. Gen. George W. Keefe, the adjutant general of the Massachusetts National Guard.

First Sgt. William Davidson of Beverly received a Bronze Star for meritorious service.



STAFF PHOTO BY PATRICK WHITEMORE

TOT-AL RECALL: Jackson Buccheri, 22 months, clings to dad, Sgt. 1st Class Steven Buccheri of Lynn, during yesterday's honor ceremony.